

2.2.11 WILDLAND FIRE

The planning area has historically had few large wildland fires. However the potential for large wildland fires exists in many part of the area and there are natural and human related resources that could be adversely affected by wildland fires. There are also native plant communities and some wildlife habitats that would benefit from future fires. The challenge for fire managers is to suppress undesirable fires at the smallest possible acreage while carrying out desired prescribed fire projects in a safe manner.

Objectives

- To provide an appropriate management response (AMR) to all wildland fires, with emphasis on firefighter and public safety, considering the resource values to be protected, consistent with overall management objectives and fire suppression costs.
- To contain naturally-caused wildland fires in Category A areas to less than 50 acres 90 percent of the time.
- To contain all human caused fires to less than 50 acres 90 percent of the time.
- To recognize fire as a natural process in vegetation change and to use fire to protect, maintain and enhance resources in plant communities within the planning area where consistent with objectives.

Wildland Fire Management

FIRE-1: Rehabilitation and restoration efforts will be conducted in areas burned by wildland fires and subject to invasion by invasive species (see Vegetation section).

FIRE-2: All of the planning area will be placed in one of two management categories shown in Table 2-6 and Map 2-7 with corresponding Appropriate Management Responses based on the criteria in Appendix I.

Note: Category A areas are primarily associated with private lands, BLM facilities and other areas where wildland fire is not desired. Category B areas are wildlands without structures or other facilities where a variety of fire suppression techniques is appropriate to meet the resource objectives consistent with the intent of the NCA legislation and other site-specific activity plans. Fire Management Plan evaluations may be used to change areas designated as Category A and B or further subdivide Category B areas to better identify site-specific resource objectives or fire management needs.

Table 2-6 Fire Management Zones

Category	Description	Acres
A	Full Suppression	42,841 ¹
B	Wildland fire could be used to meet desired outcomes	1,162,199 ²
¹ Category A areas also include an additional 10,049 acres of private land		
² Category B areas also include an additional 7,727 acres of private land		

FIRE-3: Prescribed fire treatment of vegetation may be used in both Category A and Category B lands to achieve vegetation and other objectives consistent with the intent of the NCA Act and protection of private property.

Chapter 2 –Management Plan

Note: It is anticipated the prescribed burning will be used for small scale projects with specific vegetation and wildlife habitat objectives. Mechanical treatments utilizing low-surface-disturbance techniques will be the preferred means of fuel reduction.

FIRE-4: In all wildland fire situations, priority will be given to placing resources capable of initiating aggressive suppression in a position to evaluate the fire using the criteria contained in Appendix I to determine the best response for local conditions. Site-specific fire suppression techniques will be applied for each wildland fire situation appropriate for the weather, fuel and available fire suppression resources and consistent with the intent of the NCA Act.

FIRE-5: Minimum impact suppression techniques will be used throughout the area described in Appendix I. Use of heavy, surface-disturbing equipment will be minimized and will require prior approval by the field manager.

Implementation

Updating the current Fire Management Plans (FMP) will be a priority during the first year of RMP implementation. FMPs are used to guide wildland fire suppression, fuels management and other aspects of fire management. These plans will be periodically evaluated and updated based on changes in technology, policy, scientific knowledge, and other factors in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the planning area is managed. FMPs will provide appropriate fire suppression resources in or near the planning area for initial attack consistent with resource objectives.



*Prescribed
burn in
High Rock
Canyon*



*Prescribed
burn in
Little High
Rock
Canyon*